Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 A-01 OES-06 DLOS-06 SAL-01 /109 W

-----122306Z 021599 /71

R 121729Z JAN 77

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2752

INF ALL EC CAPITALS 2970

AMEMBASY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 0310

E.O. 11652:N/A TAGS: EEC,PLOS

SUBJECT: BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY'S JANUARY 12 LUXEMBOURG PRESS

CONFERENCE

1.ON JANUARY 12, FOLLOWING HIS INITIAL SPEECH TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AS EC PRESIDENT-IN-COUNCIL, (REPORTED SEPTEL) BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY CROSLAND HELD A HEAVILY ATTENDED PRESS CONFERENCE, DURING WHICH HE DEVELOPED THE FOLLOWING SALIENT POINTS:

2.COMMUNITY ENLARGEMENT.CROSLAND SAID ENLARGEMENT
"MUST AND WILL OCCUR" BECAUSE ENLARGEMENT IS INEVITABLE
UNDER THE TREATY OF ROME,AND THE COMMUNITY "HAS NO RIGHT
TO PREVENT IT. " HE RECALLED THAT THEQUESTION OF HOW
ENLARGEMENT IS MANAGED (I.E.,HOPEFULLY IN SUCH A WAY AS NOT
TO ENFEEBLE TO COMMUNITY ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY)
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POSES THE EC'S GREATEST TEST OVER THE MEDIUM TERMS AND WILL, IN FACT, HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOP-MENT FOR SOME TIME TO COME. FON SEC SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHEN PORTUGAL AND SPAIN WILL PRESENT MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS. ASKED WHAT KIND OF ENHANCED RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EC WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FORPORTUGAL, CROSLAND OBSERVED THAT THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES

OF MEMBERSHIP ARE IMPORTANT TO PORTUGAL AND THAT "WHETHER ANYTHING LESS THAN FULL MEMBERSHIP WILL SATISFY IS,I THINK,A VERY TRICKY QUESTION." FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID HE EXPECTED GREEK ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS TO MOVE FORWARD STEADILY DURING THE BRITISH PRESIDENCY. BECAUSE OF THE UNCERTAINTY REGARDING THE TIMING OF PORTUGUESE AND SPANISH APPLICATIONS -- AND PERHAPS MUCH LATER A TURKISH APPLICATION -- CROSLAND SAID THE THOUGHT EACH ACCESSION NEGOTIATION WOULD HAVE TO BE HANDLED SEPARATELY RATHER THAN AS PART OF A CONCURRENT MULTI-SIDED NEGOTIATION.

3.CYPRUS.CROSLAND SAID THAT WHILE HE WISHED TO AVOID DISCUSSING DETAILS, THE CYPRUS PROHLEM WAS VERY MUCH ON HIS MIND AS PRESIDENT-IN-COUNCIL.HE SAID THIS IS ONE OF THE MAJOR TOPICS EC AND OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN OFFICIALS WILL WISH TO DISCUSS WITH VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE DURING HIS UPCOMING EUROPEAN TRIP..

4ECONOMIC EXPANSION.POINTING OUT THAT IT WAS NOT FOR HIM TO TELL OTHER GOVERNMENTS WHAT ECONOMIC POLICY TO PURSUE, CROSLAND NONETHELESS NOTED APPROVINGLY PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S RECENTLY ANNOUNCED ECONOMIC PROGRAM FOR STIMULATING THE US ECONOMY.HE FORESAW BENEFICIAL CONSEQUENCES FOR THE WORLD ECONOMY AND IMPLIED THAT GERMANY COULD AFFORD TO TAKE SIMILAR REFLATIONARY RISKS IN THE COMMON INTEREST.

5.FISHERIES.FON SEC SPECULATED THAT WHILE FISHERIES PROBLEM WILL OCCUPY MUCH OF EC COUNCIL TIME DURING UK UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESIDENCY, IT IS FAR FROM CERTAIN THAT THE COMMUNITY WILL BE ABLE TO ADOPT A DEFINITIVE INTERNAL REGIME DURING THAT SIX MONTH PERIOD.

6.DIRECT ELECTIONS TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.CROSLAND SAID " IT IS STILL THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION" TO DO ITS PART TO INSURE THAT THE ELECTION IS HELD IN MAY/JUNE 1978 AS SCHEDULED (I.E.BY PASSING ENABLING LEGISLATION IN NEAR FUTURE). HINTON

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Margaret P. Grafeld	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am

Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, PRESS COMMENTS, ECONOMIC COOPERATION, POLICIES, MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 12-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: n/a

Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment:

Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ECBRU00310
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D770012-0566

Format: TEL From: EC BRUSSELS

Handling Restrictions: n/a Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770160/aaaacagd.tel Line Count: 107 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8afe2edb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 15-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3619609 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY\'S JANUARY 12 LUXEMBOURG PRESS CONFERENCE

TAGS: PLOS, PFOR, PO, SP, EEC, (CROSLAND, ANTHONY)

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8afe2edb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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